



INSPI[RED]

the words of Jesus

The Week of August 30, 2020 What Does Jesus Say About Following Him? Part 1 Group Discussion Questions

Following Christ means taking up our own cross and denying ourselves.

Intro Questions

- Who first told you about Jesus?
- What is the difference between being born in a Christian family and being a born-again Christian?
 - Why do we say a person needs to accept Christ as Savior and Lord?

Read Matthew 28:18-20

Then Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- How do you "make disciples?"
- What does Jesus tell us His followers should be like?

Read Luke 9:23

Then He said to them all, "If anyone wants to come with Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Me."

- What does this mean?
- Pastor David shared pictures of some celebrities wearing crosses. Looking at their lives (and without Googling!), do you think this is just piece of jewelry or a symbol of their beliefs?
 - Do you wear a cross? Is it a piece of jewelry or a symbol?

Read Matthew 10:34-38

Don't assume that I came to bring peace on the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I came to turn

a man against his father,
a daughter against her mother,
a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;
and a man's enemies will be
the members of his household.

The person who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me;
the person who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.
And whoever doesn't take up his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me.

- Have you ever faced pushback for your belief in Jesus?
 - Was it a family member?
 - Can you share a story of a time you put God first and it had a positive impact on your life or other's lives?

Read Matthew 22:37-40

He said to him, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important command. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands."

- Pastor David shared that his wife, Pam, loves him "the most next to Jesus." How did that make Pastor David feel? (Watch it here: <https://vimeo.com/452351988>)
 - Why do you think he felt that way?
 - How would it make you feel?
- Remember the story of Sylvia from the message. When have you been made to feel bad or cast out for your faith? (Watch it here: <https://vimeo.com/452351887>)
- Christians around the world face horrible persecution. Here in America we tend to face problems more at work, school, etc. What are some ways that you have had to take a stand for Jesus in your workplace, home, or school?
- What's holding you back from fully surrendering to Jesus?
 - Is it worth it?

Watch this Clip from this week's message and pray along with Pastor David: <https://vimeo.com/452352121>

"Let's just push back from the busyness of the week and take some heart time. I want you to know, Jesus is worthy of your love and your affection. He made you, loves for you, died for you and stands as a risen Savior who makes a real relationship with God possible.

God, here's my trust, here's my plans and dreams, here's my affections. I pour it out before you. You can have everything I have, every possession, every relationship, my family, my girlfriend or boyfriend, I make them all secondary to you and you alone. So Jesus I trust you and I ask you to live in me, lead me and accomplish your plans through me. In Jesus name we pray. Amen."

Going Deeper

Check out some testimonies at iamsecond.com.

Visit opendoorsusa.org to learn more about persecution around the world.